

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

As will be noted from the Declaration, Applicants are citizens and residents of Japan and this application originated there.

Accordingly, the amendments made to the specification are provided to place the application in idiomatic English, and the claims are amended to place them in better condition for examination.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay H. Maioli", written in a cursive style.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract by rewriting same to read as follows.

[The invention provides a] A reproduction apparatus and a reproduction method by which [the] an error of time information [which] that arises from interruption of power [supply] supplied to a timer [which] that manages the term of term-managed contents data is minimized to allow accurate term management of the contents data. The timer produces time information when power is supplied to the timer from a cell, but the timer stops [its operation] operating when no power is supplied thereto. The time information produced by the timer is stored into a memory, and the memory holds the stored time information when no power is supplied to the timer. [Then, when] When [the] power from the cell is restored [supplied subsequently] to the timer, the timer [the time information stored in the memory] is set according to the [timer] time information stored in the memory, so that the timer may thereafter produce correct time information thereby [to allow] allowing term management of the term-managed contents data to be performed accurately.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-19 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--1. (Amended) A reproduction apparatus [which operates] with a battery for reproducing term-managed main data, comprising:

main data storage means for storing [the] said term-managed main data;
term data storage means for storing term management data [to be used for the term-management of the] for managing said term-managed main data;
time counting means operating with [the] said battery for counting

time and producing time information;

holding means for holding said time information counted by said time counting means [also] when power is not supplied [thereto] to said time counting means from [the] said battery; and

control means for controlling said holding means to hold [the] said time information counted by said time counting means at a predetermined time.

--2. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when [the] a supply of power from [the] said battery of said reproduction apparatus is resumed after [the] said supply of power from [the] said battery is interrupted, said control means controls said time counting means to resume [the time] said counting time based on [the] said time information held by said holding means.

--3. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means permits reproduction of [the] said term-managed main data based on [the] said term [information] management data stored in said term [information] data storage means.

--4. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein [the permission of] said control means permits reproduction of [the] said main data [is discriminated] based on [the] said term [information] management data stored in said term [information] data storage means and [the] said time information counted by said time counting means.

--5. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls said holding means to hold [the] said time information at a predetermined timing.

--6. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 5, wherein [the] said time information is held by said holding means after each predetermined interval of time.

--7. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein said control means controls said holding means to hold [the] said time information when said reproduction apparatus enters a low power consumption mode.

--8. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

operation means for being operated by a user, and

wherein said reproduction apparatus enters [the] said low power consumption mode in which [the] said power supply to a predetermined circuit block [or blocks] is stopped when said operation means is not operated by [the] said user for a predetermined period of time.

--9. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said time counting means continues [the time] said counting [with the] time using said power from [the] said battery even when said reproduction apparatus is in [the] said low power consumption mode, and said control means controls said holding means to hold [the] said time information counted successively by said time counting means after each predetermined period of time while said reproduction apparatus is in [the] said low power consumption mode.

--10. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

connection means for allowing communication with [a different] another apparatus, and

wherein said control means adjusts, when said reproduction apparatus is connected to [the different] said another apparatus by said connection means, [the time] said counting time of said time counting means based on time information sent from [the different] said another apparatus to said reproduction apparatus.

--11. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 10, wherein [the] said adjustment of [the time] said counting time of said time counting means is performed when [the] said time information of [the

different) said another apparatus connected to said reproduction apparatus leads [the] said time information counted by said time counting means.

--12. (Amended) A reproduction apparatus [which] that operates with a battery for reproducing main data that is term-managed based on term management information, comprising:

time counting means operable only while power is supplied thereto from [the] said battery for counting time to be used for the term management;

holding means for holding the time counted by said time counting means while power from the battery is not supplied to said time counting means; and

control means for controlling reproduction of [the] said main data based on [the] said term management information and [the] said time [information] counted by said time counting means.

--13. (Amended) [A] The reproduction apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

data accessing means for reading out [the] said main data and [the] said term management information from a recording medium on which [the] said main data and [the] said term management information are recorded.

--14. (Amended) A reproduction method for a reproduction apparatus [which] that reproduces term-managed main data using a battery as a power supply, comprising the steps of:

reading, from a timer [which] that operates with [the] said power supply from [the] said battery to count time and stops [the] time counting when [the] said power is not supplied from [the] said battery, time information to be used for [the] term management of [the] said term-managed main data and writing [the] said time information into a nonvolatile memory [which] that holds data even when [the] said power is not supplied thereto from [the] said battery; and

setting [the] said time information written in [the] said

nonvolatile memory to [the] said timer when [the] said power is supplied again after [the] said power supply from [the] said battery is interrupted.

--15. (Amended) [A] The reproduction method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

discriminating, when [a] an instruction to reproduce [the] said term-managed main data is received, whether [or not the reproduction should be permitted] to permit reproduction of said term-managed main data based on [management] term-management data [to be used for management of a reproduction term of the main data] and [the] said time counted by [the] said timer.

--16. (Amended) [A] The reproduction method according to claim 14, wherein [the] said writing of [the] said time information into [the] said nonvolatile memory is performed when said reproduction apparatus enters a low power consumption mode.

--17. (Amended) [A] The reproduction method according to claim 14, wherein [the] said writing of [the] said time information into [the] said nonvolatile memory is performed after each predetermined interval of time.

--18. (Amended) [A] The reproduction method according to claim 14, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a time information sent from [a different] another apparatus connected to said reproduction apparatus; and

re-setting [the] said timer based on [the] said received time information sent from said another apparatus.

--19. (Amended) [A] The reproduction method according to claim [19] 18, wherein [the setting of the time information to the] said step of re-setting said timer is performed when [the] said received time information [received] sent from [the different] said another apparatus leads [the] said time produced by [the] said timer.